

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 MAY 2006

Re Section V.2.

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO 2004/030948 A

V.2.1. Independent claims 1 and 13

V.2.1.1. Novelty

Document D1, which is regarded as the nearest prior art, shows in Figure 5a and describes on pages 9-15 an apparatus for controlling the operation of an electronic wheel unit (100, 32, 14) assigned to a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a state detection device ("pressure sensor", Fig. 5a);

an energy detection device ("charging process supervision and control", Fig. 5a) for recording data relating to the energy instantaneously made available to the electronic wheel unit (100) by a generator (14) and by an energy storage device ("energy storage", Fig. 5a).

The subject matter of the present claim 1 differs from this in that a central control unit selects the operating mode of the wheel unit based on the data received with regard to the energy available within the wheel unit and other wheel operating states.

The present application therefore satisfies the criterion specified in Article 33 (2) PCT, because the subject matter of the single independent claim 1 is novel with regard to the prior art transcribed in the implementing regulations (Rule 64.1 - 64.3 PCT).

V.2.1.2. Inventive step

Based on the cited prior art, the object to be achieved by the present invention can therefore be seen as consisting in reducing the complexity of the wheel units with regard to signal processing and in reducing their electrical consumption.

Since the determination of an energy saving operating mode is handled by the central control unit, the design of the wheel electronics can be simplified.

However, the solution according to claim 1 appears neither to be known by any of the documents included in the proceedings seen per se nor to be obvious from the prior art overall.

The present application therefore satisfies the criterion specified in Article 33 (3) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 1 is based on an inventive step (Rule 65.1, 65.2 PCT).

The corresponding method as claimed in claim 1 also satisfies the criteria specified in Article 33 (2) PCT and Article 33 (3) PCT.

V.2.1.4. Dependent claims

The dependent claims, which have as their subject matter further embodiments of the invention as claimed in claim 1 and claim 13, also meet the requirements of Articles 33 (2) to (4) PCT.